



County of Los Angeles  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

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DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

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November 22, 2005

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair  
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Supervisor Don Knabe  
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From: David E. Janssen   
Chief Administrative Officer

**IMPLEMENTATION OF AB 1285**

This is to inform your Board of our plans for implementing AB 1285, a County-sponsored bill that was signed by Governor Schwarzenegger on October 7, 2005. AB 1285, which was carried by Assembly Member Montañez, provides a technical change to the Education Code and modifies how the Child Care Staff Retention Program will be administered in Los Angeles County.

The Child Care Staff Retention Program is intended to assist counties in improving the retention of qualified child care employees who work directly with children receiving State-subsidized child care services. The California Department of Education (CDE) administers this program, and funds are allocated to each county's local child care planning body. The Office of Child Care, a unit of the Service Integration Branch, provides staff support to the Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee and manages this program known locally as the Investing in Early Educators Program. Funding for this program is approximately \$4.9 million per year.

Counties have some discretion in designing and implementing these programs. Eligibility for participation, however, was defined by the authorizing legislation (AB 212, adopted September 20, 2000) and is limited to persons working directly with children in child development centers holding contracts with CDE. Beginning January 1, 2006,

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AB 1285 will expand the pool of eligible participants for the Los Angeles County Investing in Early Educators Program to persons working directly with children in:

- Family Child Care Home Education Networks;
- Licensed family child care homes where a majority of the children are receiving subsidies from the CDE; and
- Licensed child care centers where a majority of the children are receiving subsidies from the CDE.

Eligible participants who maintain their employment in child development, and complete at least three (3) college units in child development, or courses leading to a degree in child development or related field, can receive a cash stipend from the Investing in Early Educators Program. While stipend amounts can vary depending on the number of participants, recent awards have been \$1,500 for completing three (3) units and \$3,000 for completing six (6) or more units.

My staff is currently working on application and outreach materials to reach this larger population of eligible participants. In order to facilitate access to appropriate courses, we will be contracting with various community colleges throughout the County to offer courses at off-campus locations, on evening and weekend schedules to accommodate our target population of persons working in various child development programs.

We hope that you share our excitement about including this new population in the Investing in Early Educators Program. If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Kathleen Malaske-Samu at (213) 974-2440, or via E-mail at [kmalaske@cao.co.la.ca.us](mailto:kmalaske@cao.co.la.ca.us).

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